BEST Old Key Combinator

Key Cutter - Basic Repairs

Pawl Spring

Pawl Spring (Part # 1074)

The pawl spring is a thin, curved piece of heat-treated metal (giving it a slightly blue color) which is mounted into the ratchet lever and pushes against the pawl laminated assembly. The assembly then pushes against the notches in the key carriage, moving the key carriage forward after each cut is made. A properly installed pawl spring can last from months to years.

Symptom: The key carriage will no longer advance. Check to be sure the pawl spring is centered in the "track" of the ratchet lever. If the pawl spring has broken you can see that it no longer reaches the notches in the key carriage to push the carriage forward.

Cost/lead time: $15.53 / 25 days

Replacing the Pawl Spring

Remove the key carriage and outer half.

1. Remove the key carriage by removing the small screw on underside of the key cutter. Once the screw has been removed the carriage stop pin will drop out of the unit and you can slide the key carriage out.

2. Unscrew the rubber "feet" from the underside of the key cutter.

3. Remove the 2 nuts on the body of the unit (the side with the name plate) using a 9/16" socket.

4. Locate the 3 bolts on the underside of the key cutter that are lined up below the name plate side of the outer half. Remove these 3 bolts from the underside of the key cutter using a 9/16" socket. Once these are removed you can remove the outer half of the cutter.

Replace the pawl spring.

5. With the outer half of the cutter removed, remove the pawl spring. The pawl spring is held in place with a single screw above the ratchet lever (see Illustration 1).

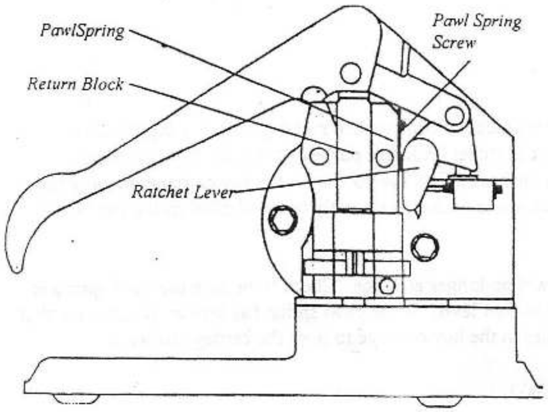
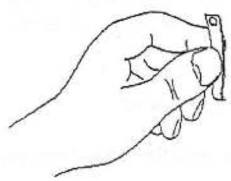


Illustration 1

6. Hold the new pawl spring so the end of the spring curves toward you and the angle at the bottom of the spring faces away from you (see Illustration 2).



The pawl spring curves toward you and the angled end of the spring points away from you.

Illustration 2

7. Position the key cutter with the handle facing away from you. Insert the new pawl spring by placing the screw in the spring and positioning the spring between the main and the ratchet lever. Tighten the screw.

8. Turn the cutter back on its side and look to see if the spring is centered in the track of the ratchet lever. The spring should not touch either edge of the ratchet lever, but be suspended in the center (see Illustration 3). Recheck the position of the spring, adjust and retighted the screw. *If the spring is installed backwards it will work a few times, but will quickly break.*

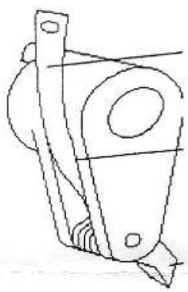


Illustration 3

Replace the outer half.

7. Replace the outer half and loosely replace the 2 outside nuts and the 3 bolts on the underside. Alternate tightening between the nuts and the bolts until all are snug. Be sure the handle moves freely

8. Replace the rubber feet.

9. Replace the key carriage. A friction pin which protrudes into the carriage pathway may offer resistance as the carriage is inserted. With some cutters it is necessary to reach into the carriage pathway from the back of the opening and manually depress the pin in order to insert the carriage.

10. Replace the carriage stop pin on the underside of the cutter and secure it by replacing the holding screw. Press the handle 8 times to test that the key carriage advances properly.